A 5 24.

DECLARATION OF THE CAVSES MOuing the Queenes Maieſtie of England, to prepare and ſend a Nauy to the Seas, for the defence of her Realmes againſt the King of Spaines Forces, to bee publiſhed by the Generals of the ſaide Nauy, to the intent that it ſhall appeare to the World, that her Maieſtie armeth her Nauy onely to defend her ſelfe, and to offend her enemies, and not to offend any other, that ſhall forbeare to ſtrengthen her enemie, but to vſe them with all lawfull fauours.

Imprinted at London, by the Deputies of Chriſtopher Barker, Printer to the Queenes moſt excellent Maieſtie.

Anno Dom. 1596.

HONI SOIT QVI MAL Y PENSE
DIEV ET MON DROIT

¶ A declaration of the Cauſes *mouing the Queenes Maieſtie of Eng-* land, to prepare and ſend a Nauy to the Seas for the defence of her Realmes againſt the King of Spaines Forces, &c.

TO all Chriſtian people, to whom this Declaration ſhall come to be read or heard, greeting. We Robert, Earle of Eſſex, & Ewe, Viſcount Hereford, lord Ferrers of Chartley, Bourgheer, and Louane, &c. And Charles lorde Howard, Baron of Effingham, Lord high Admirall of England, &c. hauing the charge of a Royall Nauy of Ships, prepared and ſent to the Seas, by the moſt excellent Princeſſe the Lady Elizabeth, Queene of England, France, and Ireland, &c. doe giue all men knowledge, that the ſaid Nauy vnder our charge is by her Maieſtie prepared and ſent to ſerue on the Seas, for defence of her Maieſties Realmes, Dominions, and Subiects, againſt ſuch mightie Forces, as we are aduertiſed from all partes of Chriſtendome, to be already prepared by the King of Spaine, and by further prouiſions of Men and Ships dayly ſent for, are to be mightily increaſed, to in-

uade her Maiesties Realmes: as heretofore in the yeere of our Lord 1588. was attempted (euen when there was a Treatie continued by both their Commissioners for a Peace) with a greater Army then euer before in his time was set to the Seas: though by Gods goodnesse, and the valour and wisedome of her Noble and faithfull Subiects, the same was notably made frustrate. And because her Maiestie hath good intelligence of perfite amitie with all Kings and Princes of Christendome, sauing with the King of Spaine, who hath this many yeeres most vniustly professed openly great enimitie by diuers actions, both against her Royall person, and her people, and Countries, without any iust cause first giuen on her Maiesties part. Therefore we the saide Earle, and Lord Admirall, doe ascertaine all persons, that wee are most straightly commaunded by her excellent Maiestie to forbeare from offending in this our Voyage of any maner of persons of what Nation soeuer, except the said Kings naturall Subiects, or such others borne Strangers, as shall giue to the said King manifest aide, with Men, Ships, Artillerie, Victual, and other Warlike prouisions for inuasion of her Maiestie. Which her Maiesties commandement we meane duetifully to obserue: and doe therefore giue straight charge to al persons that shal serue in this Nauy vnderneath vs, vpon paine of extreme punishment to obserue the same. Yet to auoyde all occasions that may breede question, who they are, being not the King of Spaines Subiects, that shalbe charged by vs to be manifest aiders for the furnishing and strengthening of the said Kings forces, prouided either by land or Sea, to attempt any inuasion of her Maiesties Countries: We do for the liquidation of this doubt, earnestly in Gods Name, require and charge all persons, that are not the saide Kings naturall Subiects, and yet that haue giuen him ayde with their Ships, Victuall, and Munition, as is aboue saide, to withdrawe all their said Shippes prepared for the warre, and all their prouisions of hostilitie out of any Hauens of Spaine, or Portugall, or from the company and seruice of the Kings Ships against our Nauy, and therewith to returne either to their owne Countries, or if they so shall like to come to our Nauy: to whom in the reuerend name of our Soueraigne Lady the Queenes Maiestie, we doe promise all securitie, both for their persons and

goods

goods to be vſed and defended as friends, and to ſuffer al their Ships and prouiſions, that were either taken by the King of Spaine, or intended for his ſeruice, or that ſhall bee by the owners withdrawen from his ayde, to remaine in their owne free diſpoſitions, ſo as the ſame be vſed in all ſortes as friendes, and not as enemies to the Queenes Maieſtie, and to vs her Generals. And if any ſhall vpon knowledge of this her Maieſties moſt honourable order, and of our promiſe (to obſerue the ſame as fauourably as wee may) willingly and manifeſtly refuſe to accept this our offer, and ſhall not endeuour themſelues to perfourme this reaſonable requeſt, tending to their good and libertie, wee ſhall then be iuſtly moued, as by the lawe of Armes we may, to take and vſe all ſuch ſo refuſing this our offer, as manifeſt ayders of the King of Spaine, with forces to inuade her Maieſties Dominions, and ſo manifeſt Enemies: and in ſuch caſe of that refuſall, if any harme ſhall happen by any attempt againſt their Perſons, Ships, & Goods by any our Nauie, for the ayding of the ſaid King: there ſhall be no iuſt cauſe for them hereafter to complaine, or to procure their naturall Princes and Lords to ſollicite reſtitutions or amends for the ſame. And for the more notification hereof, we haue thought good to haue the Originall hereof to bee ſigned with our hands and with our ſeales, to bee ſeene by any that will require to reade or ſee the ſame: And likewiſe wee haue put the ſame in Print, in French, Italian, Dutch, and Spaniſh, and haue alſo cauſed the ſame to bee diſtributed into as many Ports of Spaine and Portugall, as conueniently might be for the better knowledge to bee had in the ſaide Portes, as alſo in all other Partes vnder his ſubiection.

R. Eſſex. C. Howard.